AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 3, amend claims 1, 6-7 and 10 and add new claims 11-21 in the following manner. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Roller drive unit for transporting an item of freight in an aircraft cargo hold comprising:

a drive roller comprising a core and a covering attached thereto defining an outer surface that can be brought into frictional contact with a bottom of an item of freight in order to transport said item; and

a drive motor coupled to the drive roller to rotate the drive roller about its long axis;

wherein the covering comprises a plurality of covering layers including an outer covering layer, at least one inner covering layer, and at least one delimiting layer that is so constructed and disposed between at least one of the inner covering layers and the outer covering layer that the inner and outer covering layers are firmly connected to one another and that a spreading of a fissure from the one covering layer into an adjacent covering layer is restricted;

and wherein each delimiting layer defines openings through which material forming the adjacent covering layers can come into direct contact.

2. (Original) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the covering layers are constructed to be concentric with the outer surface.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each delimiting layer comprises a woven fabric.

5. (Original) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the woven fabric comprises a single ply.

6. (Currently Amended) Roller drive unit ~~as claimed in Claim 1,~~ for transporting an item of freight in an aircraft cargo hold comprising:

a drive roller comprising a core and a covering attached thereto defining an outer surface that can be brought into frictional contact with a bottom of an item of freight in order to transport said item; and

a drive motor coupled to the drive roller to rotate the drive roller about its long axis;

wherein the covering comprises a plurality of covering layers including an outer covering layer, at least one inner covering layer, and at least one delimiting layer that is so constructed and disposed between at least one of the inner covering layers and the outer covering layer that the inner and outer covering layers are firmly connected to one another and that a spreading of a fissure from the one covering layer into an adjacent covering layer is restricted;

and wherein a plurality of delimiting layers is provided, superimposed such that they are substantially equidistant from one another.

7. (Currently Amended) Roller drive unit ~~as claimed in Claim 1,~~ for transporting an item of freight in an aircraft cargo hold comprising:

a drive roller comprising a core and a covering attached thereto defining an outer surface that can be brought into frictional contact with a bottom of an item of freight in order to transport said item; and

a drive motor coupled to the drive roller to rotate the drive roller about its long axis;

wherein the covering comprises a plurality of covering layers including an outer covering layer, at least one inner covering layer, and at least one delimiting layer that is so constructed and disposed between at least one of the inner covering layers and the outer covering layer that the inner and outer covering layers are firmly connected to one another and that a spreading of a fissure from the one covering layer into an adjacent covering layer is restricted;

and ~~wherein in addition to the delimiting layers~~ there are provided delimiting surfaces forming walls in the covering layers that extend in the direction of at least one of the long axis and radially to the long axis and that are so constructed that regions of the covering layers are firmly connected to one another by the delimiting surfaces.

8. (Original) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the inner and outer covering layers are made of rubber.

9. (Original) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the inner and outer covering layers are made of a material that is as similarly vulcanizable or polymerizable as rubber.

10. (Currently Amended) Roller drive unit ~~as claimed in Claim 1,~~ for transporting an item of freight in an aircraft cargo hold comprising:

a drive roller comprising a core and a covering attached thereto defining an outer surface that can be brought into frictional contact with a bottom of an item of freight in order to transport said item; and

a drive motor coupled to the drive roller to rotate the drive roller about its long axis;

wherein the covering comprises a plurality of covering layers including an outer covering layer, at least one inner covering layer, and at least one delimiting layer that is so constructed and disposed between at least one of the inner covering layers and the outer covering layer that the inner and outer covering layers are firmly connected to one another and that a spreading of a fissure from the one covering layer into an adjacent covering layer is restricted;

and wherein the inner and outer covering layers comprising individual layers with delimiting layers inserted between them are wound onto the core and subsequently, by penetration of the covering material through the delimiting layers, are connected to one another.

11. (New) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 6, wherein each delimiting layer comprises a woven fabric.

12. (New) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the woven fabric comprises a single ply.

13. (New) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the covering layers are constructed to be concentric with the outer surface.

14. (New) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the inner and outer covering layers are made of a material that is as similarly vulcanizable or polymerizable as rubber.

15. (New) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the inner and outer covering layers are made of rubber.

16. (New) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the covering layers are constructed to be concentric with the outer surface.

17. (New) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the inner and outer covering layers are made of rubber.

18. (New) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the inner and outer covering layers are made of a material that is as similarly vulcanizable or polymerizable as rubber.

19. (New) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the covering layers are constructed to be concentric with the outer surface.

20. (New) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the inner and outer covering layers are made of rubber.

21. (New) Roller drive unit as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the inner and outer covering layers are made of a material that is as similarly vulcanizable or polymerizable as rubber.